

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 39, Number 09

September 2014

ACGNJ Announcements

Main Meeting

Friday, September 5, 2014, 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Scheduled Topic: Evernote (and other note-taking apps)

Scheduled Speakers: David McRitchie and Brenda Bell

Window Pains Meeting

Friday, September 19, 2014, 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

Scheduled Topic: UNIX Commands A-Z

Scheduled Speaker: Scot Jenkins

President's Note

Michael P. Redlich

September 2014

The Summer of 2014 has come and gone, I hope y'all had an opportunity to enjoy this past Summer to get away with family and friends. Now it's time to kick off our new season of ACGNJ Main and Window Pains meetings along with the usual cast of SIGs returning from their respective summer hiatuses.

(Continued On Page 3)



<http://www.acgnj.org>

Founded 1975

This newsletter was made by 100% pure Linux!

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ACGNJ Meetings

For the very latest news on ACGNJ meetings, please visit the ACGNJ Website (www.acgnj.org).

For news from OTHER clubs, please go to:

<http://www.acgnj.org/joomla/>

Lunics (Linux/UNIX): Monday, Sept 1, 8 PM
(Yes! It ***IS*** being held on Labor Day).

Andreas Meyer (lunics (at) acgnj.org)

Board of Directors Meeting: Tues, Sep 2, 7 PM

Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

Main Meeting: Friday, Sept 5. 8:00 PM

Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

Layman's Forum: Monday, Sept 8, 8:00 PM

Matt Skoda (som359 (at) gmail.com)

Java: Tuesday, Sept 9, 7:30 PM

Mike Redlich (mike (at) redlich.net)

Investing: Thursday, Sept 11, 8:00 PM

Jim Cooper (jim (at) thecoopers.org).

NJ Gamers: Friday, Sept 12, 6:00 PM

Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic (at) gmail.com)

Web Browser: Monday, Sept 15, 7:30 PM

David McRitchie (firefox (at) acgnj.org)

C/C++: Tuesday, Sept 16, 7:30 PM

Bruce Arnold (barnold (at) ieee.org)

Window Pains: Friday, Sept 19, 8:00 PM

John Raff (john (at) jraff.com)

Board of Directors Meeting: Tues, Sep 30, 7PM

Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

Main Meeting: Friday, Oct 3. 8:00 PM

Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. Directions and map on last page. 🗺

In This Issue

ACGNJ Announcements	1
ACGNJ Investment Meeting SUMMARY (Aug. 14, 2014), Philip Lees	3
The New Outlook Pioneers' Computer Donation Program	4
Distros Revisited (Part 5), Bob Hawes	8
SIG News	13

President's Note, Michael P. Redlich	1, 3
Mobile Devices Meeting Report, Brenda Bell	3
HOPE X Review, Cass & Ruth Lewart	5
Computer Problems Plague Everyone, Even Me, Sandy Berger .	11
Guru Corner	15

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Mobile Devices	Brenda Bell		Membership	Bob Hawes	
NJ Gamers	Gregg McCarthy		Newsletter	Bob Hawes	
Web Browser	David McRitchie		Publicity	Gregg McCarthy	
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Submissions: Articles, reviews, cartoons, illustrations. Most common formats are acceptable. Graphics embedded in the document must also be sent as separate files. E-mail submissions to newsletter@acgnj.org preferred. **Always confirm.** Date review and include name of word processor used, your name, address and phone and name, address and phone of manufacturer, if available.

Tips for reviewers: Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it?

Advertising: Non-commercial announcements from members are free. Commercial ads 15 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Camera ready display ads: Full page (7 x 10 inches) \$150, two-thirds page (4.5 x 10) \$115, half-page \$85, one-third \$57, quarter \$50, eighth \$30. Discount 10% on 3 or more consecutive insertions. Enclose payment.

Publication Exchange: Other computer user groups are invited to send a subscription to ACGNJ at the address below. We will respond in kind.

Address Changes should be e-mailed to membership@acgnj.org or sent to ACGNJ at the address below.

Membership: Regular (now includes *all* family members who reside at the same address): 1 year \$25, 2 years \$40, 3 years \$55. Student: 1 year \$20. Senior Citizen (over 65): 1 year \$20, 3 years \$45. Send name, address and payment to ACGNJ, PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076.

Typographic Note: This ACGNJ News was produced using Scribus 1.3.3.13. Font families used are Times New Roman (TT) for body text, Arial (TT) for headlines.

E-Mail Addresses

Here are the e-mail addresses of ACGNJ Officers, Directors and SIG Leaders (and the Newsletter Editor). This list is also at <http://www.acgnj.org/officers.html>.

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As I mentioned in last month's installment of President's Note, our September meetings have been confirmed. For completeness, I will list them again here:

Main Meeting

- Friday, September 5
- "*Evernote (and other note-taking apps)*"
- presented by David McRitchie and Brenda Bell

Window Pains

- Friday, September 19
- "*UNIX Commands A-Z*"
- presented by Scot Jenkins

As you may already know, we invited Bill Cheswick to speak about computer security for our October Main Meeting. I am happy to announce that

Bill Cheswick has accepted our invitation and will present, "*Computer Security: I Think We Can Win*" on Friday, October 3. Many thanks to Scot Jenkins, a relatively new and very active ACGNJ member, for taking the lead to formally invite Bill.

The October Window Pains meeting on Friday, October 17 will be held at The Microsoft Store for a presentation on the Windows Phone.

Please stay tuned for more details regarding all the topics listed above via the ACGNJ web site and/or e-mail. For a complete list of all the topics that have been tentatively scheduled, please visit:

<http://www.acgnj.org/pm/planning-2014-6.html>.

Enjoy the remainder of your Summer and I'll see you in September! Hey, that reminds me of a song...

ACGNJ Investment Meeting SUMMARY (Aug. 14, 2014)

Philip Lees, ACGNJ

We had a very nice August meeting on Thursday, 8/14/2014 and we had **11** attendees. There was a lot of interaction, loads of questions and interesting discussions, which all make for excellent meetings.

Jim Cooper and I started with a presentation and discussion of the Financial Visualizations website (www.FINVIZ.com), which is an excellent, FREE, trading resource. It has Fundamental data, Technical data, chart patterns and many other ways of scanning/filtering for trading opportunities. Everyone should check out FINVIZ.com.

Ernest Andalcio did another follow-up presentation and discussion on the wonderful, FREE trading

platform www.DOUGH.com (created by www.tastytrade.com and the creators of *Thinkorswim*). Ernest once again discussed some of his option trades throughout July/August, how he identified the trades, how he entered and how he exited the trades. Sheena also shared her approach using DOUGH to successfully identify, place and close Calendar trades profitably. Everyone should check out DOUGH.com.

Thanks to everybody who attended and participated. Once again, please attend the meetings, everybody learns from them. We hope to see you at September's meeting, **9/11/2014**. Thank you.

Philip Lees ☐

Mobile Devices Meeting Report (August 13, 2014)

Brenda Bell, ACGNJ

The posted August topic for Mobile Devices was ***Mobile Payments: Commerce Without Cash or Credit Cards***. There were five attendees (Wendy Bell, Dave McRitchie, Don McBride, Mike Reagan, and myself).

We discussed how traditional payment systems have morphed into mobile wallets, touched briefly on cryptocurrencies (such as Bitcoin), and mobile

payment systems (such as Square and Pay Anywhere) before moving on to app store payment systems (such as iTunes and Google Play), app/gift-card loyalty programs (such as Starbucks and DDPerks), NFC payment systems, and various incentives these programs have set up to encourage their use. Basic security questions were also posed, but there are no clear answers yet. ☐

THE NEW OUTLOOK PIONEERS' COMPUTER DONATION PROGRAM

The New Outlook Pioneers Morris Club

It was the perfect partnership. Stephen Palaszewski knew technology and how to fix computers. Robert Hofacker knew how to spread the word.

Nearly 20 years ago, the two men, both of whom worked at Lucent Technologies, learned each was involved in getting recycled computers to organizations in need. Hofacker was helping to deliver computers to the blind. Palaszewski was bringing old computers he restored to Whippany, NJ area preschools.

The two crossed paths in 1995 and created a computer donation program that will celebrate its 20th anniversary next year. Today, they are called the New Outlook Pioneers, a club within the international volunteer Telecom Pioneers organization. Their club consists of a small corps of half a dozen dedicated, retired telecommunications industry volunteers who have combined the dual mission of saving electronics from landfills and giving the technology for free to those who can't afford to buy new computers.

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Chapter 132 of The New Outlook Pioneers provides personal computers (PCs) to schools and non-profit agencies throughout New Jersey. Recipients include preschools, churches, handicapped individuals and the blind. Our goals are two-fold: **1**-to encourage and foster the learning of basic educational skills through the use of modern technology and **2**-to provide cost-effective technology solutions to empower the non-profit sector.

The PC donation program refurbishes and upgrades PCs that are no longer needed by local businesses. The process developed by the Pioneers includes the following activities:

- 1**-Refurbish PCs and/or assemble PC components into systems.
- 2**-Install an operating system and educational or office software on each PC by cloning a master hard drive.
- 3**-Deliver, setup and test the PCs at the non-profit or school.
- 4**-Provide ongoing support to the recipient institution to solve any software or hardware problems that may develop.

When they first got started, Palaszewski, a thermal engineer, had computers stacked in his office that he repaired and loaded with educational software he bought for his son. Lucent first donated a room for them to store their equipment, and he would spend his lunch hour and some evenings on the project. Eventually, Palaszewski created a master hard drive that could be cloned without limit, so restored computers could be loaded with all the needed software within 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, through word of mouth and Hofacker's efforts in contacting local preschools, more and more groups began to call for help. Hofacker would take the orders and within weeks deliver the computers and hook them up.

Since 2011, our PC Donation Program has been hosted by The Volunteer Management Centers in Morristown, NJ. School and non-profit agency employees routinely visit our PC Lab to pick up free computer equipment for use in their organizations.

The following is a brief summary of our program.

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Our preschool donation program focuses on the development of basic learning skills, such as math, vocabulary, reading, language and problem solving. Our PCs make learning exciting and fun while helping to develop basic computer skills.

We refurbish laptops and donate them to The Communicating Computers for the Blind Foundation in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Screen reading software installed on these laptops is used by the instructors to teach blind individuals the use of office software, email and the internet.

We have donated over 7,000 PCs to hundreds of organizations since the start of the program in 1995.

To donate PCs or to request PCs for your organization, please contact:

Steve Palaszewski, Ph.D, President
The New Outlook Pioneers Morris Club
Email: sjp1 (at) yahoo.com

Our PC Lab is located at:

The Volunteer Management Centers
280 West Hanover Avenue
Morristown, NJ 07960
973-538-7200 x22

HOPE X Review

Cass & Ruth Lewart, ACGNJ



HOPE X, Hackers on Planet Earth, was the 10th biennial convention in New York. We have attended all of them. The Hotel Pennsylvania, scene of previous HOPE conventions, fortunately again escaped the wrecker's ball. 2600, the Hacker Quarterly, is the founder and current sponsor of HOPE X. This year, their biggest distributor declared bankruptcy, so they won't be able to pay the huge sum they owe to HOPE X. HOPE looks to the hacker community to meet the challenge. A larger crowd than we had ever seen before (approximately 3,000 from all over the world, plus hundreds of volunteers) participated.

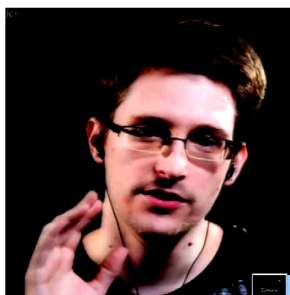
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attended, plus references to some projects. For more information, including *Club-Mate*, workshops, Vendor areas, and *Trip Glasses*, see the last paragraph below or go to the HOPE X link.

Keynote Address – Daniel Ellsberg & A Conversation with Edward Snowden



Daniel Ellsberg



Edward Snowden

The two highlights of the convention were a live talk by Daniel Ellsberg, the famous leaker of the *Pentagon Papers*, followed by a talk by Edward Snowden, the NSA leaker, via video link from Russia. Both presenters received standing ovations from an enthusiastic audience. The main points of both talks were that disclosure of actions that are clearly against the US Constitution should be

All talks (roughly 100) were given in three parallel tracks, and a 4th session was provided for ad hoc topics. The lecture halls were named after previous leakers, such as Chelsea Manning, Frank Serpico (NYC policeman who blew the whistle on police corruption), and Frank Olson (government scientist and CIA leaker, who died under mysterious circumstances). Many talks dealt with invasion of privacy by both government and big business. The theme this year was *Dissent*. Workshops and other events were offered on several floors throughout the building. The HOPE organizers sold T-shirts, and DVDs of current and past talks. A short description of all talks and downloads of audio files (future), are available at HOPE X (x.hope.net). You may also enjoy the many talks that are currently available as full-length videos on *YouTube*.

The HOPE events ran non-stop from Friday morning until Sunday evening. We attended as many talks as we could physically handle, close to a dozen. We will give here impressions of some of those we

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rewarded, and not punished, as was the case with the 35-year sentence for Manning. Ellsberg and Snowden urged the hacker community to come up with means for encrypting metadata (information containing data about the sender and recipient of messages). This would enable future leakers to pass information to the press and the public without compromising their location.

There was considerable interaction between Ellsberg and Snowden, each heaping praise and thanks on the other. Ellsberg said there was no question that Snowden has been successful. Snowden, talking about modern technology, stated that technology empowers democracy, and has changed the way we relate to government, and vice versa.

Bless the Cops and Keep Them Far From Us

The presenter, Alexander Muentz (www.linkedin.com/pub/alex-muentz/4/47/920), a lecturer at Temple University, both a hacker and a lawyer, defends many leakers. He made the point that the accused hackers, instead of keeping their mouths shut, made self-incriminating statements that could then be used

against them. This reminded Cass of his experience when he was arrested at age 12 with his parents, by the Gestapo, and taken to a prison holding cell, with many other prisoners. He was given the advice by one of the prisoners, “do not admit anything!”

Elevator Hacking: From the Pit to the Penthouse

This excellent 2-our talk was of special interest to Ruth because many years ago she was trapped in an elevator in an Asbury Park condo. The liberating *tool* was her shoe, used to bang on the door, and the *helper* was a resident of the condo who heard her call and managed to open the elevator door, stuck in a currently unoccupied top-floor condo. Unlike most elevators, this condo provided no *controls*, such as the special keys described below.

Two presenters (Deviant Ollam, lock picking instructor, and Howard Payne, elevator consultant and inspector) shared the stage with a captivating presentation. One referred to the mystique of MIT students taking late-night rides on elevator car tops (our son treated us to tales of mis-adventures by students in the MIT corridors) and modern *pen*

testers that use elevators to bypass building security systems. A *pen test* or *pentest* (“penetration test”) is an attack on a computer system with the intent of finding security weaknesses, and potentially gaining access to the system.

We were treated to an in-depth explanation of how elevators work, including the subversion of security in many facilities. There are two types of elevators, one pushed from the *pit* below, and one pulled from the *penthouse* above. The *pit* also protects a defective elevator from crashing. The *penthouse* contains the motors, ropes and pulleys that move the elevator up and down. All modern elevators have multiple modes of operation, e.g., skipping certain floors, going only to specific floors, or ignoring certain calls for service. These modes can be selected by using special keys that – would you believe it? – can easily be purchased on eBay!

Note that this talk was scheduled towards the end of the conference, so presumably there wouldn’t be enough time to test the system in the Hotel Pennsylvania!

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A Story of Self Publishing Success

John Huntington, professor of entertainment technology at CUNY, has made far more money self publishing one edition of his current book than he did on previous efforts with several books using a conventional publisher. He started in a conventional way with a large publishing house that took care of marketing, editing, and selling his books. This required little effort on his part. However, the effective earnings were less than \$15/hour of his time. He then switched to a self publishing house, which would still sell his book, but he had to do his own design and marketing. Though it required more effort on his part, his return was now \$45 - \$50/hour. He could easily modify the text, determine his selling price, add free lecture videos, gain more control over his work, and provide other benefits to his readers. Would he do it again – the answer was a resounding yes!

Using Social Engineering

(Based on YouTube Video) The panel included Emmanuel Goldstein, known to us as the host of

WBAI’s “Off the Hook.” Social Engineering consists of making phone calls to unsuspecting “victims,” establishing a trusted relationship, and extracting information that normally would not be provided by the victim. The aim of the demo call was to find an unlisted phone number of the NSA (National Security Agency). The panel leader, Emmanuel Goldstein, called an army base (known number) near the NSA headquarters, and then cajoled the person answering to look up and provide the NSA number. Emmanuel’s approach was to announce that he had to deliver hundreds of bottles of a German soft drink (you guessed it, *Club-Mate*) to the National Security Corporation (fictitious organization). He succeeded in getting the unlisted number!

Projects, Workshops, and More

While we didn’t personally experience the electronic concerts, or the art installations, we did make the rounds. There’s only room to describe here a few of our visits:

We sampled and enjoyed the German hacker

HOPE X Review, *continued*

community favorite carbonated, caffeinated beverage, available in the US as *Club-Mate*.



Cass with Club-Mate

Trip Glasses, the Sound & Light Brain machine, (www.TripGlasses.com) produced by Cornfield Electronics, was distributed to the Press and guests so that they could “Meditate, Hallucinate, and Trip Out.” The kit consists of an earphone, glasses, and a circuit to produce its special effects. Cass agreed to try the Trip Glasses, but turned out to be resistant to their charms. If you wish to give them a try, contact Ruth at rlwart@comcast.net. The goal here is

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Labs, and once considered buying a Lisa.



Cass on a Segway

pure entertainment, though a warning of a possible side effect is included.



Cass with Trip Glasses

The *Segway Human Transporter* is an impressive feat of engineering demonstrated on the indoor HOPE track. That’s Cass, timidly trying out this unique transportation machine.

An exhibit of vintage computers, such as the older *Apples*, the *Lisa*, *Macintosh* and *Mac Portable* was presented by MARCH (Mid-Atlantic Retro Computing Hobbyists) and their president, Evan Koblentz. Ruth worked with the Apple II at Bell

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Evan Koblentz

Radio Statler broadcasts original material and expanded conference content to the wide reaches of the Internet, and thus is of interest to both visitors and remote listeners.

You could have visited Lockpick Village, the Soldering Workshop, and vendors such as publisher *No Starch Press*, and stayed for concerts and Art exhibits, participated in workshops, and bought 2600-sponsored DVDs and T-Shirts. Some of these you can still do online, such as listening to audios and *YouTube* videos. And the rest – what else, but to plan to participate in person in 2016? 📺

Distros Revisited (Part 5)

Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

Linux Mint

First, some recap: Distros are Linux Distributions. I first mentioned them over *nine* years ago, in the *very first* article that I ever wrote for this newsletter (*Linux Dual Boot Experiments*, in our May 2005 issue). In the first four parts of *this* article (in our April, May, June and August 2014 issues), I tested eight distros as possible replacements for my aging Ubuntu 12.04 LTS system. Five *failed*, but three passed: Linux Mint, Lubuntu and simplyMEPIS. Now, it's time to put one of them into full-time service. Let's see how long I can last before I go running back to good old 12.04, crying like a baby. Our initial victim (oops, I mean candidate) is Linux Mint 16. (Yes, I'm aware that Mint 17 is *already* out, and Mint 18 should be out soon; but for the purposes of this article, I'm sticking with 16).

In my previous experiments, I used a small temporary 2 GB hard disk to hold my test data. Now, I'll be using my regular "320" GB data hard disk, which I've just realized has *not* been backed up for

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examined Kbackup; and in *Back Me Up, Sweetie* (my article in our May 2012 issue), I examined Simple Backup Suite (also known as Sbackup). Each worked well enough, but I had quibbles with *both* of them. All in all, I was less *un*-favorably impressed with Kbackup, so that's what I installed and used now. (Installation only took about a minute. Use took quite a bit longer).

For reasons that made a *lot* of sense years ago when I set it up, my main data hard disk is divided into *seven* partitions, each measuring 42 or so GB. I backed up the partition labeled D_DRIVE first. According to Kbackup's Files and Duration counters, it contained 20,056 files, and took 53 minutes, 22 seconds to process. E_DRIVE (with 31,544 files) took 54:27. F_DRIVE (almost completely filled with 71 *really BIG* files) took 52:04. I_DRIVE (almost completely filled with 168 *nearly* as big files) took 47:08. J_DRIVE (with 219 similar size files) took 55:13. K_DRIVE (with 202 similar files) took 50:36. (Wow! I hadn't realized just how many *huge* files I'd collected on this hard disk. No wonder it's almost completely filled up). Finally, L_DRIVE (with

quite a while. Horrors! (By the way, that "320" is *sarcasm*. Manufacturers routinely *lie* about the sizes of their equipment. This particular disk would be lucky to hold 298 GB on a *good* day). After I booted my computer from Mint, the first thing I did was open my file browser and choose Preferences from its Edit menu. In the File Management Preferences window that popped up, I changed my defaults from Icon View to List View, and from By Name to By Access Date. Next, I double-clicked on a copy of 0000-MT.odt. (That's my special empty **O**pen **D**ocument **T**ext file that comes in *very* handy). That started LibreOffice Writer, where I typed in these first two paragraphs. Now, having discovered a *serious* omission on my part, I've got to do a *full* data backup right away.

A few years ago, I checked out two file-based Linux backup programs (rather than image-based programs like Clonezilla, my "go-to guy"). In *Back Us Up, Mister Tux* (my article in our March 2012 issue), I

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12,995 files) took 52:03. Well, that was a lot of work, but well worth the trouble; and *shame on me* for not doing it sooner.

(Nit picker's note: In my original scheme, G: (or G_DRIVE) and H: (or H_DRIVE) were virtual drives. They no longer exist; but by the time I eliminated them, the other volume labels had been in use for a while. So changing the labels would have caused *more* confusion than just leaving two slots empty). Having avoided one possible disaster by creating a set of current backups, though, I ran straight into another.

Several times over the years, I've mentioned that I probably *wouldn't* have been able to make the move from Windows to Linux if I hadn't brought Luke Pascoe's MD5Summer program along with me. (Filename: md5summer.exe). I've said this before and I'll say it again: MD5 itself *has* been "cracked", and is currently considered "cryptographically unsuitable"; but I'm *not* trying to transmit secret messages across enemy territory. I'm just checking my files for any accidental corruption that may have occurred as they were being copied. (Most people

seem to be unaware that ***NO*** copy, download, backup or restore process can ***ever*** be guaranteed to be perfect). For verifying such operations, MD5 sums are still eminently suitable. (There ***are*** other file verification tools out there, but md5summer.exe is capable of processing (and accurately reporting on) ***tens of thousands*** of files easily. I haven't seen anything else that even comes close).

Fortunately, md5summer.exe runs just fine under *Wine* (the compatibility layer/emulator that allows Windows applications to run on Unix-like operating systems), so I dodged that bullet. However, to run a program under *Wine*, you've got to ***find*** *Wine* first; and on my Mint 16 installation, I just ***couldn't***. (Even though both Synaptic Package Manager and Software Manager listed it as "installed"). I "jumped through a lot of hoops" trying to find *Wine*, and maybe I'll write about them some day; but ***only*** if I can ultimately report a success. I'm tired of writing about failure.

So I put Mint aside until I could take time to search their website for further information, and I tried

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Open with, I changed the entry in the drop-arrow box from *Archive Manager* (the default) to *Wine Windows Program Loader*, and clicked OK. After that, I right-clicked on the second file, md5summer.md5, selected properties, and verified that, under **Open with**, it now said *Windows MD5 sum generator*. (The third file, md5summer.txt, is just a readme file). Finally, I double-clicked on md5summer.md5, thus launching md5summer.exe, which checked its previously stored checksum against ***itself***, to make sure it was an undamaged copy.

I was just about to dive head first into Ubuntu when I had a belated inspiration about *Wine*. I ***don't*** actually need to know where the program is located, as long as I know that it ***has***, in fact, been installed. To test this idea, I copied md5summer.exe from the MD5 directory on D_DRIVE to my Desktop, and, as expected, I got an md5summer.exe icon there. I right-clicked on it, selected Properties, and set it to open with *Wine Windows Program Loader*. Then I double-clicked on it, and MD5Summer launched just like it was supposed to.

MEPIS instead. Booting from my simplyMEPIS hard disk, I did an admittedly quick search, and I ***couldn't*** find *Wine* under MEPIS, either. Since both Mint and MEPIS now seemed to require a lot more website (and possibly user forum) research, I switched my computer to Ubuntu and hoped for the best. Again, the first thing I did was look for *Wine*.

I clicked on Ubuntu's annoyingly unlabeled icon in the bottom left hand corner of the screen, and there was ***Wine***, in a prominent position on the menu that popped up. (Just like it ***should*** be. Maybe this prominent place on the main menu is an "Ubuntu-specific" thing). When I hovered my mouse cursor over *Wine*, a sub-menu popped up. There, I clicked on *Browse C: Drive*, and I got a "c:" browser window. Next, I opened a "D_DRIVE" browser window, and I copied the MD5 directory from there into that first window. Then, I double-clicked in my new C:\MD5 directory to reveal three files.

I right-clicked on the first file, md5summer.exe, and selected Properties from the menu that popped up. That got me a File Properties window. There, under

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Having thus verified my theory, I shut down Ubuntu, and then repeated those actions on both Mint and MEPIS. Each time, it ***worked***. Therefore, I've got ***three*** viable candidates once again; and I've also got a dilemma: What do I do now? (In ***this*** article, anyway). I decided that, having started with Mint, I'd go back and continue with it. So I rebooted my computer under Mint, and the first thing I did was make a few small tweaks.

When, as a maintenance guy, I was working on other people's computers, I grew to really ***hate*** screen savers. (They'd always kick in at ***exactly*** the wrong moment). So, as I always do on my own machines, I disabled Mint's screen saver. I also changed the "Put display to sleep" setting to "Never". While I was at it, I set my system to automatically log me in when it booted up; and I took pity on my aging fingers by increasing my mouse's "Double-Click Timeout" to "Long". Then, I put my new md5summer.exe installation through a workout.

Before I made those seven data backups above, I ***should*** have first created an updated MD5 checksum file for each of those seven partitions; but having

belatedly realized my own neglect, I rushed right into the backup process without doing so. Thus, I still have to create those files. So I opened a browser window, went to D_DRIVE, and started MD5Summer. (I know, I know. Using upper case or lower case letters depending on the exact version of the program's name is annoying; but that's the way the author wrote them. So, being a stickler, that's how *I* have to write them, too).

Creating the checksum file for the 19,420 files in D_DRIVE took 40:39. E_DRIVE (31,462 files) took 43:37. F_DRIVE (67 files) took 32:06. I_DRIVE (156 files) took 32:08. J_DRIVE (201 files) took 32:17. K_DRIVE (192 files) took 31:53; and L_DRIVE (11,202 files) took 45:31. Math fans among you will have noticed that the totals given here and the totals for these exact same partitions given farther above do **NOT** match. While these totals are correct, those previous totals are **wrong**. That's because Kbackup also counted directories and subdirectories as if they were files. I reported this bug in *Back Us Up, Mister Tux* two and a half years

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function, it took 67:45. (Significantly longer than its 40:39 creation time from above). Furthermore, it got **three** errors. Unacceptable!!! (So much for my desire **not** to write about failure.).

However, I've already wasted almost two whole days' work on these backups. About six hours yesterday making the backups, and about 7 hours today, creating those seven checksum files, restoring only one of those backups, and then having it **fail** its verification. Way, way back in the "good old days", Colorado Backup for DOS (**still** my all-time favorite backup program as far as design and features are concerned) came with Backup, Restore **and** Compare operations. I certainly could have used a built-in compare function today. Unfortunately, nobody else seems to consider this to be important anymore. Too bad.

In any case, I've lost too much time on those backups already. So I have to put them aside for now, to be examined further at a later date. I've still got a successful operating system. Because, whatever caused those errors, it **couldn't** have been Mint. It

ago; but apparently, they haven't fixed it yet. Or worse, maybe they **don't** consider this to be a bug. (As is usual for most Linux programs, Synaptic Package Manager downloaded my new installation from the Internet. Presumably, it got the very **latest** version of Kbackup at that time).

Well, that took about four and a half hours, and that was the **easy** part. Now we've got to **restore** those seven backups. The trouble is, Kbackup doesn't seem to **have** a Restore function. So, as in *Back Us Up, Mister Tux*, I had to use Archive Manager to perform my restoration. According to that article, it took about 42 minutes to extract a 41.6 GB Kbackup test file. (Archive Manager does **not** have a built-in time counter. Hence, the "about"). Since the archive file created for D_DRIVE by Kbackup measured 40.1 GB, I expected similar performance. I **didn't** get it.

It took Mint's version of Archive Manager about **80** minutes to extract those files. Wow! After I'd copied my new D checksum file (made two paragraphs above) from D_DRIVE to my temporary restoration directory and then ran md5summer.exe's Verify

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might have been Kbackup (**least** likely), it might have been my external USB hard disk (possible), or it might have been Archive Manager (most likely); but in no way could the culprit have been Mint itself. Imperfect though one of those backups is, they now exist; and that's good enough to hold me for a while. I've got to move on.

So, what do I do a lot under 12.04? I browse the Internet. Therefore, it's time to check out Firefox. First, I accessed Hotmail. I had to type my e-mail address and password into the appropriate boxes: but after I did, I got right in and checked my messages. Then, I went to TVGuide.com, where I got a surprise. I had to re-set all my preferences from scratch. (Of course, this **shouldn't** have been a surprise. Those settings are stored in a cookie; and this is a fresh new installation. So, **no** cookies). I quickly visited the ACGNJ and Distrowatch sites, and then I wasted a few hours watching Internet TV. I had no problems.

At this point, Update Manager popped up, recommending 40 updates. So I installed them. (It

took about 15 minutes). Then, sticking with frivolity a little while longer, I double-clicked on some music video files, trying types MP3, MP4, FLV, WMV and OGV. They all launched Videos, described as “a video playback application designed to work with GNOME 3. It's based on Totem, the original GNOME video playback application, which has been included in GNOME since 2.10”. (On my Ubuntu 12.04 system, those last four types launched Totem Movie Player; but MP3 files launched Rhythmbox instead).

Unfortunately, Videos was an abysmal failure. Videos played the first file I double-clicked on OK, and the second; but after that, it played any file's audio portion OK, but it did *not* display the video portion. I rebooted the computer several times (to insure that nothing was “hiding in memory”), and got consistently similar results: First time, good. Second time, maybe. After that, uniformly *bad!* (Audio yes, video no). In my opinion, Videos is a *lemon*. So I reassigned those file types to VLC Player, which you may remember was on the “punch

list” that I installed in *Part 2* (see our May 2014 issue). After that, everything worked correctly.

OK. Enough playing around. What else do I do that actually produces useful output? Well, I print stuff. So I clicked on the Menu icon in the lower left hand corner of my screen, clicked on Control Center on the menu that popped up, then clicked on Hardware and Printers in the Control Center window that likewise popped up. That brought up a window labeled “Printers – localhost”, which said: “There are no printers configured yet”. At that point, I turned on my printer. Within a minute or so, that message disappeared, and an icon bearing my printer's name appeared in its place. I right-clicked on that icon, chose Properties from the menu that popped up, and clicked on the Print Test Page button of the Printer Properties window that likewise popped up.

Sadly, it's now time to wind up this article. Happily, we're going out on a win. (My page printed successfully). My current plan is to keep using Mint for at least a month, and then to switch to one of my other candidates, and write another article about my

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experiences there. However, I've already got articles scheduled for our upcoming October, December and January issues. So future installments about Lubuntu and MEPIS will have to wait until November and/or February. That takes us right up to next year's Trenton Computer Festival, but for now, we're done.

Appendix I: A Last Minute Brainstorm

I just figured out that my D_DRIVE backup *didn't* fail. Acting on a hunch, I re-ran my D checksum file on D_DRIVE itself; and I got *three* errors again. At first, I thought that md5summer.exe had produced a bad file; but fortunately, *no*. While md5summer.exe doesn't have a log file, it *does* have a function that re-shuffles your results, moving all the errors to the top of the list. Thus, you can easily see them on screen at the same time. It also allows you to save your results

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in a text file. Luckily, because md5summer.exe hardly ever gives me any errors, I'd done both things both times. Now, all I had to do was open those two text files and examine their first three lines.

As it turns out, the culprit was *ME*. Remember, I made those backup files on one day, and I made those checksum files on the next day. Between those times, I'd continued working, and I *made changes* to three files. Hence: three errors. Then, even more time passed before I re-ran my D checksum file above. During that time, in the course of my normal operations, I made *even more* changes to those three files. Thus, three errors again. So: Kbackup was good, md5summer.exe was good, and Archive Manager was good. *I* was bad. Double (make that *triple*) shame on me! See you next month. ☹

Computer Problems Plague Everyone, Even Me

Sandy Berger, CompuKISS (www.compukiss.com) Sandy (at) compukiss.com

Why do things change on your computer? One day everything comes up just as it normally does. The next day, you can't get on the Internet, the icons are

in a different place, and/or your program is working differently. Well I am here to tell you that everyone has problems like this -- even me! Here's the whole

story!

When weird things happen on the computer, most people immediately blame themselves saying, "I must have done something to make this happen." The truth, however, is that in the computer world changes can happen without your having done a thing to cause them. This was really brought home to me this week when I had several "problems" with my own computer

When I sat down to work on the computer last Monday, the icons for my password manager and several other shortcuts that I use regularly were no longer on my browser toolbar at the top of the screen. On Tuesday, when I opened my Quicken program, the numbers and text was twice as large as normal. On Thursday I tried to play some music and found that iTunes was no longer working. On Friday I found that my CD drive, which I hadn't used for months, was no longer working.

Now, it is unusual for all of these things to happen in one week, but it is not unusual for them to happen. I did not do anything to cause any of these changes.

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Then I dragged that to the left and my icons appeared and remained on the screen.

Quicken was another disconcerting item. For several days, the text and numbers appeared larger one time and smaller the next. To be honest, I never found the cause, but luckily it all went back to normal and has stayed that way.

Why in the world would iTunes stop working? I had no explanation, but I did have an easy solution. I simply reinstalled the iTunes program. It was aggravating and a bit time-consuming to have to do so, but after I did, everything went back to normal.

The most vexing problem was my CD drive. Last time I used it, it worked fine. Now wasn't working. It did not appear in My Computer at all. A trip over to the Device Manager showed the CD drive with a yellow exclamation meaning that it was not working properly, which I already knew. I tried a few things like uninstalling the CD driver and rebooting, but had no success. I knew that this could be a hardware problem. Perhaps the drive itself had stopped working. I also knew, that it could be a software problem. Since the driver and filters from the

So what happened? Well the simple explanation is that the computer is run by millions of lines of code. As you work on the computer, add files, and download programs, things change. Even installing updates from the manufacturer causes changes. Sometimes these changes, even if they are aimed at making a certain part of the computer better or more secure, can adversely affect other programs and other computer operations.

Although these types of changes can produce huge frustrations for the end user, the first thing to learn is that you probably didn't cause the different behavior and that, if you remain cool and calm, you can often correct the changes. Here's how I got through my aggravating week.

To find the missing icons, I had to look carefully at the screen where they normally appear. I found two arrows next to where the icons normally appeared. Low and behold, when I pressed the arrows, the missing icons cascaded down. To actually solve the problem, I simply put my cursor on the area next to the arrows until it turned into a double-ended arrow.

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operating system are used to run the CD drive and other peripherals, I decided to check that out first. I headed over to the Microsoft website where I found a Microsoft tool called "Fix It." I used it to troubleshoot and correct the problem. There are multiple Fix It tools, and the proper one can be a bit hard to find, but Fix It checked out the software, found the problem, and helped me quickly solve the problem at no cost. That sure beat having to purchase and install a new CD drive.

Well, now everything on my computer is back to normal. At least for the moment. The moral of the story is that, unfortunately, we have to expect glitches when working with computers. The best thing that you can do is to keep your eyes open for possible solutions, learn as much as you can about how your computer works and be bold enough to troubleshoot small problems. I keep my Sherlock Holmes hat ready for use at any time. You may want to do the same.

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SIG News

LUNICS (Linux/Unix)

Andreas Meyer (lunics@acgnj.org)
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/lunics.html>

LUNICS is a group for those who share an interest in Unix and similar operating systems. While we do quite a bit with Linux, we've also been known to discuss Solaris and BSD as well. Recent meetings have followed a Random Access format. See our web page for further information. (We meet on the first Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

Main Meeting

Evan Williams (president@acgnj.org)
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/mainmeet.html>

We meet on the first Friday of the month, at 8:00 PM. Each December, this meeting includes our Annual Business Meeting and Officer Elections. *No* meetings in July or August. ☐

Layman's Forum

Matt Skoda (som359@gmail.com)
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/laymans.html>

This SIG discusses issues of interest to novice users or those planning to get started in computing. Watch our Web page for updates and announcements. We meet at the same time as the Hardware Workshop. (On the second Monday of the month, at 8:00 PM). *No* meetings in July and August. ☐

Hardware Workshop

Mike Reagan (hardware@acgnj.org)

This group is dedicated to repairing, refurbishing and/or recycling older computers. Ten people attended the first meeting, so there is still a market for this type of event. Although we looked at some of the older equipment stored in the back room, most of our time was spent in talking about past experiences and planning for the future. Hopefully, we can establish a viable long-term schedule of projects, and keep the interest of those who attended this inaugural meeting. If you have a hardware problem, bring it in and we can all help fix or demolish it. (No guarantees either way.) We meet at the same time as the Layman's Forum. (On the second Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

Java

Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net)
<http://www.redlich.net/javasig/javasig.html>

This SIG covers beginner, intermediate, and advanced level Java programming. Primary focus is on developing useful/practical applets and applications. (We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ☐

Mobile Devices

Brenda Bell (mobdevsig@acgnj.org)

The Mobile Devices SIG focuses largely on current-generation cellphones and smart phones (such as Blackberry, Android, iPhone) which bridge the gap between basic cell phones and traditional computers, and how they can help you manage and organize your life. Our membership ranges from those who have recently acquired their first, basic cellphone to those who develop applications for today's modern smart phones, iPods, and ultra-portable computers. While we expect to spend much of our time investigating the built-in features and specialized applications available to modern smart phones, if you bring your basic (or multimedia) cell phone, iPod, or other mobile device with questions on how to use it, where to find applications, or what features they have, we are always happy to help! Meet and greet and plan where this event goes. Bring all your ideas, PDAs, fancy phones, etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the even ones), at 7:30PM). ☐

WebDev

Evan Williams (webdev@acgnj.org)

This SIG is an open forum for all Website Development techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All languages will be considered and examined. The current project is a CMS for the club. Anyone interested in starting a new project, come to the meeting and announce/explain. Provide as much detail as possible. WebDev should be an all-encompassing development and examination forum for all issues, applications, OS, languages and systems one can use to build Websites. We currently

have two web development language SIGs: .NET and Java; but other languages and OS need to be investigated, examined and tested; Windows, Linux, UNIX, DEC, Vax, HP etc. Intel-PC, Motorola - MAC etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the odd ones), at 7:30 PM). ☞

Investment Software

Jim Cooper (jim@thecoopers.org)

http://www.acgnj.org/groups/sig_investment.html

The Investment SIG continues with presentations on how to use analysis programs TC2000 and TCNet. Large charts are presented on our pull down screen and illustrate the application of computer scans and formulas to find stocks for profitable investments. Technical analysis determines buy points, sell points and projected moves. Technical analysis can also be used on fundamentals such as earnings, sales growth, etc. We're no longer focusing on just Telechart. If you are using (or interested in) Tradestation, eSignal, VectorVest, or just in learning how to select and use charting and technical analysis, come join us!! (We meet on the second Thursday of the month, at 8 PM). ☞

NJ Gamers

Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic@gmail.com)

<http://www.NJGamers.com>

www.lanparty.com

The Friday Night Frag starts at 6:00 PM on the second Friday of each month, and keeps going until 12 Noon on Saturday - 18 hours for 5 bucks!

BYOC - Bring your own computer.

BYOF - Bring your own food.

And if you don't like sitting on metal folding chairs...

BYO chair! ☞

Web Browser (Formerly Firefox)

David McRitchie (firefox@acgnj.org). ☞

This SIG is an open forum for all Firefox and Mozilla techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All browsers will be considered and examined. All members and guests are invited to check out the design concepts and voice their opinion. (We meet on the third Monday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ☞

C/C++ Programming

Bruce Arnold (barnold@ieee.org)

<http://acgnj.barnold.us/index.html>

This is a forum for discussion of programming in general, beginning and intermediate level C, C++, C-Win programming, hardware, algorithms, and operating systems. We demonstrate real programming in a non-intimidating way, presenting complete code for working programs in 3-5 sheets of paper. (We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). **No** meetings in July or August. ☞

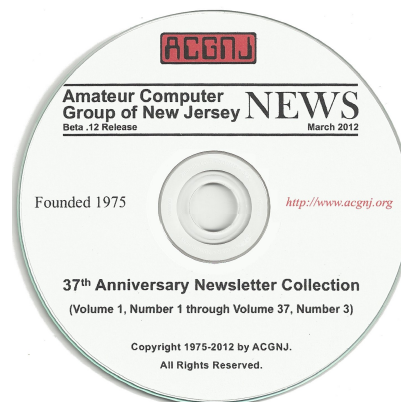
Window Pains

John Raff (jraff@comcast.net)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/winpains.html>

Intended to provide members with Windows oriented discussions, Microsoft and Linux style. Directed to more technological level of attendee, but newbies are welcomed. (We meet on the third Friday of the month at 8:00 PM). **No** meetings in July or August. ☞

37th Anniversary Newsletter CD Now On Sale



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Get yours today!

Back Issues Still Needed

Our collection remains incomplete. Below is a list of missing newsletters. Anyone who lends us one of these (or supplies a good clear copy) will receive the next CD as our thanks.

1975: #2 and #3 (dates uncertain).

1976: January.

1984: August.

1985: June, July, August, September. ☞

Guru Corner

If you need help with any of the technologies listed below, you can call on the person listed. Please be considerate and call before 10 PM.

Software

HTML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
ColdFusion	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
CSS	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
Java	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
C++	Bruce Arnold	908-735-7898
	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
ASP	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
Perl	John Raff	973-560-9070
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
XML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
Genealogy	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
Home Automation	Frank Warren	908-756-1681

Operating Systems

Windows 3.1	Ted Martin	732-636-1942
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ACGNJ T-Shirts For Sale



(Front)



(Back)

L, XL: \$15.00

M: 2 for \$15.00

bob.hawes (at) acgnj.org

ACGNJ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Sign up online at www.acgnj.org/membershipApplication.html and pay dues with PayPal.

US/CANADA		Dues	STUDENT	SENIOR CITIZEN (Over 65)
1 Year	\$25		\$20	\$20
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☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Address Change

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ E-Mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ URL _____

What topics would you like to see covered at club meetings? _____

Other Local Computer Groups		
Princeton Macintosh User Group: 7:15 pm 2nd Tuesday, Jadwin Hall, A-10, Washington Rd, Princeton, (609) 252-1163, www.pmug-nj.org	Linux Users Group in Princeton: 7 pm, 2nd Wednesday, Lawrence Branch Mercer Library, Rt#1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrence NJ http://www.lugip.org	New York PC: 3rd Thurs, 7 pm, PS 41, 116 W 11th St. For info call hotline, (212) 533-NYPC, http://www.nypc.org
Computer Education Society of Philadelphia: Meetings & Workshops at Jem Electronics, 6622 Castor Ave, Philadelphia PA. www.cesop.org/	Brookdale Computer Users Group: 7 pm, 3rd Friday, Brookdale Community College, Bldg MAS Rm 100, Lincroft NJ. (732)-739-9633. www.bcug.com	NJ Macintosh User Group: 8 pm, 3rd Tuesday, Allwood Branch Library, Lyall Rd, Clifton NJ. (201) 893-5274 http://www.njmug.org
PC User Group of So. Jersey: 2nd Mon., 7 pm, Trinity Presb. Church, 499 Rt 70 E, Cherry Hill, NJ. L. Horn, (856) 983-5360	Hunterdon Computer Club: 8:30 am, 3rd Sat, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington NJ. www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org , (908) 995-4042.	NY Amateur Computer Group: 2nd Thurs, 7 pm, Rm 806 Silver Bldg, NYU, 32 Waverly Pl, NYC. http://www.nyacc.org
Morris Micro Computer Club: 7 pm 2nd Thurs., Morris County Library, Hanover Ave, Morristown NJ, (973) 267-0871. http://www.morrismicro.com	Central Jersey Computer Club: 8 pm, 4th Friday, Rm 74, Armstrong Hall, College of NJ. Rich Williams, (609) 466-0909.	NJ PC User Group: 2nd Thurs, Monroe Rm at Wyckoff Public Library, 7 pm. Maureen Shannon, (201) 853-7432, www.njpcug.org
Philadelphia Area Computer Society: 3rd Sat, 12 noon Main Meeting, groups 8 am-3 pm. Upper Moreland Middle School, Hatboro PA. (215) 764-6338. www.pacsnet.org	NJ Computer Club: 6:15 pm, 2nd Wednesday except Jul & Aug, North Branch Reformed Church, 203 Rt 28, Bridgewater NJ. http://www.njcc.org	Princeton PC Users Group: 2nd Monday, Lawrenceville Library, Alt Rt 1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrenceville, Paul Kurivchack (908) 218-0778, http://www.ppcug-nj.org

Classified

FREE TO MEMBERS. Use our classified ads to sell off your surplus computer stuff. Send copy to Classified, ACGNJ NEWS, P.O. Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076 or e-mail to the editor, bdegroot@ptd.net. Classified ads are free to members, one per issue. Non-members pay \$10. Send check payable to ACGNJ Inc. with copy. Reasonable length, please.



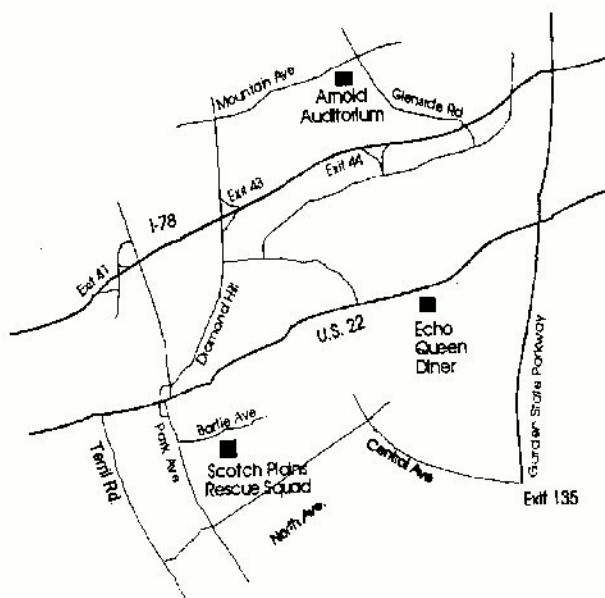
Radio and TV Programs

Computer Radio Show, WBAI 99.5 FM, NY, Wed. 8-9 p.m.

Software Review, The Learning Channel, Saturday 10-10:30 p.m.

On Computers, WCTC 1450 AM, New Brunswick, Sunday 1-4 p.m. To ask questions call (800) 677-0874.

PC Talk, Sunday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., 1210 AM Philadelphia. 1-800-876-WPEN



Directions to Meetings at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains NJ

From New York City or Northern New Jersey

Take Route 1&9 or the Garden State Parkway to US 22 Westbound.

From Southern New Jersey

Take Parkway north to Exit 135 (Clark). Stay on left of ramp, follow circle under Parkway. Bear right to Central Avenue; follow to Westfield and under RR overpass. Left at light to North Avenue; follow to light in Fanwood. Right on Martine (which becomes Park Ave). Right on Bartle Ave in middle of shopping district. Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is located on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed.

From I-78 (either direction)

Take exit 41 (Scotch Plains); follow signs to US 22. Turn right at light at bottom of hill and use overpass to cross Rt. 22. Follow US 22 Westbound directions.

From US 22 Westbound

Exit at Park Avenue, Scotch Plains after McDonalds on the right, diagonally opposite Scotchwood Diner on the left, immediately before the overpass. After exiting, turn left at the light and use overpass to cross US 22. Bear right at bottom of ramp to continue south on Park Avenue. Turn left at the second light (a staggered intersection). Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed. We meet on the second floor, entering by the door at the right front of the building.

From Western New Jersey

Take US 22 Eastbound to the Park Avenue exit. The exit is about a mile past Terrill Road and immediately past the overpass. Exit onto Park Avenue South and follow the directions above to the Rescue Squad building. ☐